Auction of Bidi Tobacco

735. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to arrange for auction for buying of bidi tobacco for the benefit of tobacco farmers;

(b) whether such suggestion has been made to Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Some representations regarding setting up of tobacco auction centres in the State of Gujarat for buying of bidi tobacco for the benefit of tobacco farmers have been received by the Tobacco Board. Tabacco Board establishes platforms for auction of Virginia tobacco grown by the registered growers. In accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, only Virginia tobacco growers are registered by the Board.

Building of Panchayat Level Food Security System

736. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Conference on Panchayati Raj-Key to food security and nutrition organised by division of international cooperation of the Agriculture Ministry in Association with Food & Agriculture Organisation was held recently in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of discussions and outcome thereof;

(c) whether FAO of United Nations offered any financial and technical assistance to India to build up Panchayats level food security system as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd July, 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the likely shaie to be given to Rajasthan State?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The Conference on Panchayati Raj-the Key to Food Security and Nutrition-was organised on July 2-3, 1996 at New Delhi by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Indian Association for the Advancement of Science, Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative and the UN inter-agency group in India.

(b) The recommendations made by the Conference are given it. the Statement *(See below)*

(c) and (d) A pilot project to test which extent the Panchayati Raj System could be used as a delivery instrument at the village level for higher food production and food security for the poor was prepared and proposed by the Planning Commission and forwarded to the FAO by the Ministry of Agriculture in January, 1996. FAO's approval for the project is yet to be received.

Statement

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The World Food Summit provides an opportunity for seeking commitment for global action to fight hunger and maluntrition and to ensure Food Security for All. The Summit should clearly bring cut that different approaches are required for food security for the urban poor and the rural poor in the developing countries. The summit should also focus on food security for the vulnerable groups, and woman and child, with particular mention of breast-feeding and supplementary foods.

2. The Panchayats and local self government institutions can play crucial role in ensuring household level Food and Nutrition Security in India, as laid down in the National Nutrition Policy of 1995 and the National Plan of Action on